To: Pepin, Rob[pepin.robert@epa.gov]; Jackson, Peter W.[jackson.peter@epa.gov]
From: Pellegrini, Janet
Sent: Thur 11/21/2013 4:56:22 PM
Subject: FW: AEC Bennoc- Piney Creek proposed permit re Biota impacts

fyi

From: Patnode, Kathleen [mailto:kathleen_patnode@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 1:44 PM
To: Pellegrini, Janet
Subject: Re: AEC Bennoc- Piney Creek proposed permit re Biota impacts

Janet-

I am coordinating with our office in Ohio. We are gathering biological information in addition to the materials that you sent. We hope to have a draft letter by Dec 3 and a final out to you the following week.

If we need any additional information or have questions regarding materials that you sent, I will send you an email.

Thanks for checking

Kathy

Kathleen A. Patnode, Ph.D.
USFWS Environmental Contaminants Specialist
c/o USEPA
1060 Chapline Street Suite 303
Wheeling WV 26003-2995
304-234-0238 (T)
304-234-0282 (F)

On Wed, Nov 20, 2013 at 2:35 PM, Pellegrini, Janet <pellegrini.janet@epa.gov> wrote:

Kathy,

I am following up my vm with this email.

Just checking if you need any other information regarding this site.

I know I sent a lot of emails back on the 7th, so if you have any questions let me know.

Thanks,

Janet

Janet Pellegrini, Environmental Scientist

USEPA Region 5, Water Division, NPDES Branch

77 West Jackson Blvd. WN-16J

Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Phone: 312-886-4298

Fax: (312) 692-2436

From: Pellegrini, Janet
Sent: Thursday, November 07, 2013 10:54 AM
To: 'Patnode, Kathleen'
Cc: McKim, Krista; Prichard, Gary
Subject: AEC Bennoc- Piney Creek proposed permit re Biota impacts

Kathy,

Attached are several of the items we discussed this morning that you could use in your review of this issue.

1. OEPA Report DSW/EAS 2010-4-1, Biological and Water Quality Study of Captina Creek Watershed link:

http://www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/35/documents/CaptinaCreekTSD2009.pdf

This report contains maps, and several links to other data that you may find useful, page 14 contains links to AEC water chemistry data, that can be downloaded into Excel spreadsheets.

See also pages 23-24 re AEC site description and enforcement action link.

Captina Creek watershed study notes exceedances for TDS which adversely impacts its macroinvertebrates, page 11.

"...the macroinvertebrates are adversely impacted by the high concentration of TDS, conductivity and metals from the AEC mine discharge at river mile 2.8. Mayflies are very sensitive to TDS and are almost completely absent from Piney Creek downstream from the mine discharge. It is recommended that AEC provide better treatment of their discharge to remove the high TDS or to avoid discharging during low flow conditions when the TDS concentrations are exacerbated by lack of dilution."

2. The attached file, Bennoc app, is the permit application from AEC, on page 3 you will find the lat/ long of the proposed ponds (they are currently operating under a general permit, as they discharge run off from a reclaimed mine area). Page 5 of application shows AEC's estimated daily maximums and average concentrations, that include specific conductance.

3. I will attach some of the analytical data from what USEPA Water Enforcement branch obtained through a February 14, 2011 Clean Water Act 308 Information request. I will send separately, the mine maps that were also included in response to EPA's request. This data is in a ZIP file. Pond 001 is the one currently operating under the general permit, proposed as Pond 023 under the OH0144576 proposed permit. Pond 008 and Pond 013 are both currently operating under another AEC NPDES permit, that is just west and upstream of the proposed permit ponds discharge points into Piney Creek.

4. I am attaching a document from AEC, that was submitted to OEPA as part of their permit documentation, it starts with a letter to OEPA dated Sept 15, 2012, I am sending, since it includes AEC's September 14, 2012 consultant report submitted to OEPA, titled "Hydro-Chemical Analysis of Waste Water Discharge and Antidegradation Assessment: American Energy Corporation's Bennoc Coarse Coal Refuse Area Ponds 001 and 002", page 5, Table 3. Expected Effluent Discharge Chemistry from Ponds 001 and 002 to Piney Creek include expected effluent concentrations of TDS at 3138 mg/L and sulfate at 2438 mg/l. You will see from the report that this "expected effluent concentration" is taken from one of AEC's operating ponds, Pond 013. The Attachment 1, page 18 to the report has the complete lab analysis

with other chemical parameters, for that same Pond 013, which is used since it receives run-off from a coarse coal refuse pile and that is what is proposed for this new permit for these 2 Ponds. You will note that the Pond 013 data provided in this consultant report, has lower values for TDS and conductivity, then what was submitted in response to the 308 request, item #3 above- in Zip files.

I will send the contact and address information for our Region's Water division separately.

Let me know if you have any questions regarding the attached information.

Thanks very much,

Janet

Janet Pellegrini, Environmental Scientist

USEPA Region 5, Water Division, NPDES Branch

77 West Jackson Blvd. WN-16J

Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Phone: 312-886-4298

Fax: (312) 692-2436